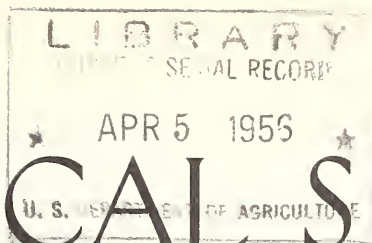


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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... January 17, 1955.....SS146

## Drought Situation Eased

The drought situation has been eased in most areas except in the western portion of the central and southern Great Plains. Fall plowing is up to the usual pattern in most areas as a result of the extended mild weather and fairly general replenishment of soil moisture. The snowpack in the mountains of the West, source of irrigation water, is fairly extensive for the date except in New Mexico. It is better than a year earlier in nearly all areas except the Columbia Basin and there the start is good.

## Grain and Hay Stocks on Farms Jan. 1, 1955

Corn--2,070 million bushels--3.5 percent less than a year earlier but 2 percent above 1944-53 average.  
Oats--923 million bushels--one-fifth larger than a year earlier and one-eighth above average.  
Sorghum grain--51.8 million bushels--43 percent more than a year earlier but 4 percent less than average.  
Barley--166 million bushels--53 percent more than a year ago and 31 percent above average.  
Wheat--316 million bushels--25 percent less than a year ago and 15 percent below average.  
Rye--8.9 million bushels--one-third larger than a year ago, and one-fourth larger than average.  
Soybeans--150 million bushels--largest on record; 84 percent larger than a year ago and 128 percent above average.  
Flaxseed--16 million bushels--about equal to stocks a year earlier and 51 percent more than average.  
Hay--72.2 million tons--about 4 percent more than both a year earlier and than the average.

## Relatively Large Supplies of Feed Grains

Feed grain supplies on farms continue relatively large. The total of 78.2 million tons on January 1 compares with 76.0 million tons for that date of each of the last two years and has been exceeded only 4 times previously on January 1. Even with more animal units to be fed, the supply per animal unit is almost as large as a year earlier, and larger than in most years.

## Pasture; Forage; Ranges

Pastures revived in early fall in many leading livestock areas and the open weather to the year's end saved hay by allowing full use of pastures and stubblefields, and the salvaging of grain and forage left in harvested corn and sorghum fields. Forage shortages persisted in large sections of the southeastern States and in much of the southern Great Plains, remaining critical in much of Texas, western Oklahoma, eastern Colorado, and south central

Kansas. Most western ranges were open in December. Range feed varied from adequate in the Pacific and northern Great Plains to short southward in the area east of the Rockies.

## Winter Wheat

A winter wheat crop of 679 million bushels was forecast as of December 1; acreage was about 6 percent smaller than a year earlier and nearly a fifth below average. Since then, conditions have remained adverse in much of the central and south Great Plains wheat area, with temporary relief about December 28 and 29 as a result of snow that soon melted. Snowfall was heavier and more beneficial in much of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, while in the South an inch of rain at the end of December helped restore subsoil reserves. The period of greatest wind hazard is just ahead. Wheat is generally in good condition in the Pacific Northwest and North Central areas but lacks protective snow in most sections.

Fall-sown grains and cover crops in most of the South now have mostly adequate soil moisture.

## Citrus Fruit

Early and midseason oranges are forecast at 71 million boxes--7 percent above last season and 36 percent above average. Valencia oranges are forecast at 65 million boxes--9 percent above last season and 14 percent above average. The grapefruit crop is placed at 44 million boxes--a decline of 2 million boxes from the December 1 forecast. This crop is now forecast as 9 percent less than last season and 12 percent less than average. California lemons are forecast at 14.6 million boxes--9 percent below last season but 17 percent above average.

## Production Comparisons

Commodity	Jan.-Dec. 1953	Jan.-Dec. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	121.2	123.8
Eggs, (bil.) .....	61.7	64.6
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	18,503	18,842
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.) .....	18,821	18,722
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	1,587	1,590
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	118,718	119,012

<sup>1</sup>January-November under Federal inspection.

## Nonfarm Indexes of Interest to Agriculture

Indexes	Base Period	Nov. 1953	Oct. 1954	Nov. 1954
Wholesale prices of food.	1947-49 = 100	104	102	103
Retail prices of food .....	1947-49 = 100	112	112	111
Weekly factory earnings .	1947-49 = 100	148	140	141

## Winter Vegetable Supply About Average

Supplies of commercial vegetables for fresh market in the winter season will be about average, but 5 percent smaller than last winter. Yields of several important vegetables are expected to be lower than the excellent yields of last winter. December freezes were a major factor, while cold weather retarded growth rather generally.

## 1954 Egg Production Record High

Farm flocks laid 5,494 million eggs in December--5 percent more than in December 1953, a record high for the month. Egg production in 1954 reached a new high of 64,582 million eggs--5 percent more than in 1953 and 13 percent above the 1943-52 average. Most of this increase was due to a larger number of layers on hand during the year. The annual rate per layer on hand during 1954 was 184 eggs, compared with 182 in 1953 and the average of 161 eggs. Prices received for eggs in mid-December averaged 32.7 cents per dozen compared with 48.5 cents a year earlier and 46.6 cents in December 1952.

## 1954 Milk Production 2% Above 1953

December milk production totaled 8,833 million pounds, 1 percent below the 1953 record December outturn, but the second highest for the month in 31 years of record. Milk production in 1954 is tentatively estimated at 123.8 billion pounds, 2 percent more than the previous high in 1953.

## Farm Employment Drops in 1954

The number of persons working on farms in late December dropped to 6,277,000. The decrease from a month earlier amounted to about 21 percent, the usual decline. There were about a million fewer family workers; the number of hired workers was down nearly 650,000 or about 38 percent. Compared with a year ago, there were 2 percent fewer workers on farms in late December. A small increase in the number of hired workers was more than offset by the decrease in the number of family workers. The average number of persons employed on farms in 1954 shows a decline of 1.5 percent from 1953.

## January 1 Farm Wage Rates Down 1% From Year Earlier

Farm wage rates on about January 1 averaged a little lower than a year earlier for the country as a whole. The seasonally adjusted index at 521 was about 1 percent under the 525 of January 1, 1954.

The seasonally adjusted index of farm wage rates on January 1 was nearly 4 percent higher than the index for the previous quarter, probably because of new rates for workers employed the year round. Workers of this type are generally more highly skilled and have been reported more difficult to obtain and retain.

## Prices Received Down 2%; Parity Ratio 86

The index of prices received by farmers declined 5 points (2 percent) during the month ended December

15. Lower prices received for hogs, lettuce, cotton, milk, and eggs were primarily responsible for the decline. Price increases for feed grains, hay, sweet-potatoes, butterfat, and calves only partially offset these reductions. The index for all farm products was 6 percent below a year earlier.

The index of prices paid for commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates remained at 279 during the month ended December 15, up 1 point from a year earlier.

The parity ratio fell 1 point to 86, the lowest since March 1941.

## Farm Telephone Bills up Slightly

In July 1954 local farm telephone bills averaged \$3.33 a month, or 3 percent above a year earlier. Total of local and long distance services averaged

## Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Dec. 15, 1953	Nov. 15, 1954	Dec. 15, 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	254	244	239
Crops.....	238	244	241
Food grains.....	230	239	239
Feed grains and hay.....	205	199	202
Tobacco.....	427	438	430
Cotton.....	260	281	276
Fruit.....	237	206	207
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt. ....	224	237	216
Oil-bearing crops.....	269	277	279
Livestock and products.....	269	243	237
Meat animals.....	285	266	257
Dairy products.....	282	266	264
Poultry and eggs.....	218	159	156
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities.....	260	262	261
Commodities used in living.....	270	272	272
Commodities used in production..	249	251	250
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....	278	279	279
Wage rates <sup>2</sup> .....	515	502	502
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers).....	91	87	86

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

<sup>2</sup>Seasonally adjusted.

## Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	Nov. 15, 1954	Dec. 15, 1954	Dec. 15, 1954
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.12	2.12	2.48
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.37	1.39	1.80
Peanuts, lb..... ct.	12.3	12.5	13.4
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb..... ct.	33.17	32.67	34.72
Potatoes, bu..... dol.	1.09	1.05	1.49
Hogs, 100 lb..... dol.	18.60	17.00	20.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	15.60	15.60	20.90
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	15.60	15.90	23.10
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	17.70	17.50	22.80
Butterfat, lb..... ct.	57.2	58.1	73.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb..... dol.	4.42	4.33	4.69
Chickens, live, lb..... ct.	17.7	17.6	29.6
Eggs, doz..... ct.	33.9	32.7	46.3

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary.



\$4.92 per farm compared with \$4.95 for July 1953.

Although the percentage of farms with telephones was at a record high in July 1954 (44.3 percent compared with 42.5 a year earlier), the total number of farms with telephones is still below the 1920 figure.

### Increased Utilization of Surplus Foods

Distribution of surplus foods to users in this country and abroad was increased substantially during the second half of 1954.

	Last Full Year July 1, 1953--June 30, 1954	This half year July 1--Dec. 31, 1954
	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>
Domestic:		
Schools.....	246.0	124.6
Charitable institutions.....	134.3	54.6
Needy persons.....	37.5	64.6
Foreign:		
Total.....	183.9	198.4
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Agencies participating.....	18	16
Countries receiving food ..	40	41

### Farm Land Values Rise

Prices of farm land strengthened in the central Corn Belt during the 4 months ended November 1, 1954, but in most other States they drifted moderately lower. The national index of average value per acre advanced to 124 (1947-49=100), 1 percent above last July and 2 percent above November 1953. The November 1954 level was 4 percent below the post-Korean peak reached in July 1952.

The number of voluntary transfers of farm real estate during 1954 was probably near that of 1953, which was the lowest since the mid-thirties.

Some increase in the amount and availability of farm mortgage credit in the last half of 1954 was evident in the Midwest and to a lesser extent in the better land areas elsewhere.

Additional details on the farm land market are available in "Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market," released January 18, 1955, by the Agricultural Research Service.

### Wool Statistics

"Wool Statistics and Related Data," Statistical Bulletin No. 142, recently issued by AMS, is the second edition of this report; the first was issued in 1949. As before, special emphasis is given to long-time series that indicate the basic trends that affect production, prices, consumption, and international trade in wool and other animal fibers. Most of the series extend through 1952 or 1953. "The Wool Situation," published 4 times a year by AMS, carries current data for some of the series.

### Fewer Sheep and Lambs on Feed

The number of sheep and lambs on feed on January 1 is estimated at 3,952,000 head, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Most of the decrease was in the number of lambs on feed in the Corn Belt States and on wheat pastures in the Southwestern Plains States.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, November 1954<sup>1,2</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine.....	8,359	5,081	13,440
New Hampshire.....	4,501	1,143	5,644
Vermont.....	7,353	890	8,243
Massachusetts.....	11,724	8,112	19,836
Rhode Island.....	1,551	754	2,305
Connecticut.....	9,763	8,542	18,305
New York.....	50,160	22,781	72,941
New Jersey.....	17,903	7,010	24,913
Pennsylvania.....	49,589	12,820	62,409
North Atlantic.....	160,903	67,133	228,036
Ohio.....	55,667	37,795	93,462
Indiana.....	63,607	32,373	95,980
Illinois.....	102,116	70,961	173,077
Michigan.....	31,887	22,618	54,505
Wisconsin.....	69,694	8,344	78,038
East North Central.....	322,971	172,091	495,062
Minnesota.....	78,220	51,158	129,378
Iowa.....	195,962	42,274	238,236
Missouri.....	63,370	37,050	100,420
North Dakota.....	18,494	38,129	56,623
South Dakota.....	41,432	21,476	62,908
Nebraska.....	65,366	30,529	95,895
Kansas.....	47,155	35,086	82,241
West North Central.....	509,999	255,702	765,701
Delaware.....	5,101	2,196	7,297
Maryland.....	13,408	7,585	20,993
Virginia.....	22,905	45,650	68,555
West Virginia.....	9,673	2,530	12,203
North Carolina.....	18,136	111,930	130,066
South Carolina.....	7,335	17,610	24,945
Georgia.....	19,203	24,589	43,792
Florida.....	10,286	28,892	39,178
South Atlantic.....	106,047	240,982	347,029
Kentucky.....	21,425	15,544	36,969
Tennessee.....	16,883	33,611	50,494
Alabama.....	12,571	24,631	37,202
Mississippi.....	11,840	89,264	101,104
Arkansas.....	14,169	70,948	85,117
Louisiana.....	9,196	34,075	43,271
Oklahoma.....	25,003	25,282	50,285
Texas.....	66,629	239,892	306,521
South Central.....	177,716	533,247	710,963
Montana.....	28,535	31,471	60,006
Idaho.....	11,994	36,965	48,959
Wyoming.....	17,627	6,400	24,027
Colorado.....	29,466	19,040	48,506
New Mexico.....	16,506	19,942	36,448
Arizona.....	10,159	50,016	60,175
Utah.....	10,964	6,171	17,135
Nevada.....	3,721	1,044	4,765
Washington.....	15,509	58,509	74,018
Oregon.....	17,282	24,349	41,631
California.....	71,628	224,575	296,203
Western.....	233,391	478,482	711,873
United States.....	1,511,027	1,747,637	3,258,664

<sup>1</sup>All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

<sup>2</sup>For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming, United States <sup>1</sup>

Source	Nov. 1954	Dec. 1954 <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	3,259	2,700
Livestock and products.....	1,511	1,300
Meat animals.....	880	
Dairy products.....	320	
Poultry and eggs.....	297	
Other.....	14	
Crops.....	1,748	1,400
Food grains.....	190	
Feed crops.....	271	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	554	
Oil-bearing crops.....	171	
Tobacco.....	114	
Vegetables.....	128	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	136	
Other.....	184	
Government payments.....	19	
Total cash receipts.....	3,278	

<sup>1</sup>For comparison for cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup>Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average <sup>3</sup> .....	\$ 1,002	\$ 450	\$ 552	45%
1953--Nov. <sup>3</sup> .....	990	441	549	45
1954--Oct. ....	974	404	570	41
Nov. <sup>3</sup> .....	967	411	556	43

<sup>1</sup>Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup>Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

<sup>3</sup>Revised.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

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